

JUDGE BRADLEY of New Jersey, is the fifth Judge chosen by the others as a member of the National Returning Board, and is presumed to hold the fate of the Nation in his hands.

PEPPER B. PLUM, (Rep.) was on Wednesday last elected U. S. Senator from Kansas, to succeed Senator Harvey. He is a printer by trade, and went to Kansas from Zanesville, Ohio, in 1857.

The "dirty dog" is inbred in Sam Randall. In appointing tellers for the House, in the matter of counting the Electoral vote, he violated the precedents of eighty years, and selected two Democrats.

The bill authorizing the people of this State to vote upon the removal of the Capital from Harrisburg to Philadelphia was squelched in the House on Tuesday last week, by a vote of 128 to 56. The good people of Harrisburg can now take off their sackcloth.

DAVID DUDLEY FIELD was Jim Fisk's lawyer, was Boss Tweed's lawyer, and is now Mr. Tilden's lawyer. The public know what became of Fisk, it knows where Tweed is, and it can give a good guess, as to where Tilden will land under the auspices of the "Rogues Attorney."

The lawyers employed to argue the case before the Electoral Commission are, Wm. M. Evans and E. W. Stoughton, of New York and Stanley Matthews and S. S. Shallauger, of Ohio, on behalf of the Republicans, and Lyman Trumbull, of Illinois, Matt H. Carpenter, of Wisconsin, Jerre S. Black, of Pennsylvania, and Asbel Green, of New York on part of the Democrats.

The Commission has fairly settled down to its work. Florida is the first State that has to go through the mill, and the first question to be settled, as was obvious from the first, is whether or not the Commission shall go behind the returns presented by the duly-constituted State Board, and on this, depends the whole issue of the Presidential controversy.

Of course other collateral issues will be pressed, but the gist of the matter is, shall the decisions of the boards be accepted as conclusive? If yes, then the returns of the disputed States must be counted, and the inauguration of Hayes follows as a matter of course. If the Commission decide to go behind the returns, then the scope of the inquiry will be enlarged that there can be no decision before the 4th of March, and a new election becomes a necessity.

We will have a decision of this matter in the Florida case, probably before this paper reaches a majority of its readers, and the question will be measurably, if not entirely settled.

The proceedings of the Commission to settle the Presidential dispute are, entirely too voluminous for our columns. We avail ourselves therefore of a brief synopsis of the proceedings so far had, which we find in the Baltimore American. Says that journal in its issue of Friday the 2nd inst.

Proceedings under the Compromise bill and the appointment of the High Commission commenced at Washington yesterday. As prescribed by the bill, the Joint Convention of the two branches of Congress met in the hall of the House of Representatives, with acting Vice President Ferry presiding, and Messrs. Ingalls and Allison tellers on the part of the Senate, and Messrs. Cook and Stone for the House.

Mr. Ferry opened the Electoral certificates, handed them to the tellers, who counted them and declared the result. The votes of Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut and Delaware were announced without objection and recorded, footing up twenty-five for Tilden and Hendricks and nine for Hayes and Wheeler. Three sets of certificates were presented from Florida, two in favor of the Democratic Electors and signed respectively by Attorney General Cooke and Governor Drew and one in behalf of the Republican Electors, which bore the signature of Gov. Stearns. Objections were immediately made by both sides to the reception of the certificates favoring the other, the Joint Convention dissolved, and the Tripartite Commission met to consider the case.

The Commission was in open session for some time, occupied with deciding as to the reception and printing of papers, the hearing of objections, and the allotment time to objectors and counsel. It was decided to hear two objectors and two counsel on each side, and the Commission went into secret session for consultation, after which it adjourned until the next day at 10:30 A. M.

On the assembling of the Commission on Friday morning at 10:30 the Florida case was presented by Messrs. Tucker Dudley Field and Randolph Davidson for the Democrats, and Messrs. Kasson and McCrary for the Republicans. Mr. Field made a brilliant stump speech (it cannot be called a legal argument); Mr. Kasson presented the legal principles upon which the supporters of Hayes and Wheeler rely so clearly and forcibly that we scarcely see how the Commission can avoid concurring in his conclusions. The point now being held under advisement by the Commission is whether it will ascertain which set of the Florida Electors actually cast, or whether it will confine itself to questions relating to the legality and regularity of the "certificates."

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER

By our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 3, 1877. THE JOINT CONVENTION.

The telegraph has already told you that the two Houses of Congress met, on Thursday, in Joint Convention, in the hall of the House of Representatives to witness the counting of the electoral vote; that when Florida was called three separate sets of certificates were presented, and read, and referred to the Electoral Tribunal; and that, under its decision, shall be considered, and further progress of the presidential count has been postponed in accordance with the provisions of the new law. It is not known how long this Tribunal may hold the case of Florida in its hands.

A member of the "intense interest," in the bill for the South Carolina and Louisiana—shall be given to Hayes, the result will still remain in doubt. Oregon may turn the scales of justice for injustice after all—either by a decision against the right of Congress to go behind the returns, or by a decision that two only of the Hayes electors were constitutionally qualified. A single die against Gov. Hayes elects Gov. Tilden; yet they may be three successive decisions against Tilden and he may be elected.

The "intense interest" in the ad hoc committee of the House, which is to decide on the case of Florida, is a subject of no small importance. The decision of the case of Florida (it is generally believed) will govern the decision on Louisiana. Yet, even if it is decided in favor of Hayes, the result will still remain in doubt. Oregon may turn the scales of justice for injustice after all—either by a decision against the right of Congress to go behind the returns, or by a decision that two only of the Hayes electors were constitutionally qualified.

Economy is a capital thing theoretically, but when it touches one's own pocket, it is to be practised with several large grains of allowance. Apparently at least, so thinks the Democratic majority in the House at Washington. That body, on Friday last, having under consideration the Legislative Appropriation bill, a motion to strike out the clause fixing the salary of Congressmen at \$4,500 instead of \$5,000 as at present, brought on a spicy debate, in which the economical proposition fared badly.

Mr. Long called up the resolution asking information from the departments of the Interior and Agriculture, and the following bills were introduced: By Mr. Frazer, appropriating fifteen thousand dollars for the Pittsburgh Free Dispensary.

By Mr. Graham, appropriating three thousand dollars to the Allegheny County Prison Society. By Mr. Billingsley, of Washington, supplementary act for the better protection of wages of mechanics, miners, laborers and others.

The sessions were fixed from ten to one o'clock except on Mondays and Fridays. A resolution was offered March 15th as the day for final adjournment.

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STATE CAPITAL.

Proceedings of the Legislature.

HARRISBURG, January 29, 1877.

SENATE.

The Senate met at eight o'clock P. M. The following appointments were confirmed: John W. Humes, Corner of Blair county; Ira W. Butler and George W. Rankin, notaries public, Pittsburgh.

A number of bills passed first reading, including an act to create a State Board of Health. Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 7:30. Messrs. Long, Graham and Hill presented petitions in favor of local option. By Mr. Frazer, a remonstrance against the law prohibiting hunting and fishing on the waters of the State.

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OUR HARRISBURG LETTER

By our Special Correspondent.

HARRISBURG, February 3, 1877. SENATE.

The Senate met at eleven o'clock A. M. The following bills were introduced: By Mr. Hubben, permitting defendants to testify in criminal cases.

By Mr. Wright, preventing county superintendents of common schools from managing or teaching private schools. By Mr. Butterfield, relative to the appointment of duties of the State Board of Health.

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By Mr. Butterfield, relative to the appointment of duties of the State Board of Health. By Mr. Dunlap, prohibiting any person from being at the same time interested in contracts for supplies to said officers.

The mutual recess was taken, when the Senators shook hands with Secretary of War Cameron, who was on the floor. The following bills passed finally: A supplement to the act, entitled an act providing for the election of aldermen and justices of the peace, passed the 21st day of June 1839, fixing the time for the expiration of their offices.

An act regulating the publication of legal notices. The following passed second reading: An act defining the limitation in prosecutions for forgery.

An act to prevent delay in the review of capital offenses in the Supreme Court. Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at eleven o'clock. Mr. Long introduced a bill providing for the admission of minors to billiard saloons and ten pin alleys in cities of the third class. The Capital Removal bill was discussed at length and indefinitely postponed by a vote of 128 yeas to 58 nays.

A motion to reconsider this vote was made and lost, which settles the question for this session. Several bills were considered on second reading. By Mr. Hitebeck, supplement to the act relating to the election of aldermen and justices of the peace.

By Mr. Edger, supplement to the act establishing a State Board of Agriculture. By Mr. Walter, increasing the amount of pensions of soldiers of 1812 or their widows.

An act to amend and consolidate various acts relating to assessment and collection of licenses within the several counties, and providing for the payment of the same into the State Treasury. Providing for the revision and publication of school laws.

To equalize taxation of companies and corporations. Supplement to an act for the punishment of cruelty to animals.

To amend the act to define and suppress vagrancy. The following bills were introduced: By Mr. Billingsley, fixing the standard weight of a bushel of bituminous coal.

By Mr. Weaver, appropriating \$25,000 to the Pittsburgh Homeopathic Hospital. The resolution to adjourn Tuesday, March 15, and reassemble the first Tuesday in January, 1878—undetermined legislation of this session—was to be resumed—was adopted.

The General Tax bill passed first reading. Adjourned till Monday evening. Picnicking has gone over to the Democrats, and it is said his action will change the color line in Louisiana. The Dems. are not very jubilant over their new convert, as yet, having previously said too hard things about him.

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MEMBERS SWORN—INITIAL PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, January 31, 1877.

Justice Bradley chosen all the members sworn—initial proceedings. The commission assembled at noon in the Supreme Court room, and organized. The special office of Justice Clifford by Middleton, Clerk of the Court, and Justice Clifford, who by the Electoral act, is presiding officer of the commission, then administered the oath to the other fourteen members.

James H. McKenny was then appointed temporary clerk to the commission, and it was ordered that the proceedings of the commission, except those above stated, shall be held confidential, unless otherwise ordered. After a brief session the commission adjourned until 4 P. M.

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